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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/645,559	08/22/2003	Masayoshi Nishio	0229-0773P	9174

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BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

BLAU, STEPHEN LUTHER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 13 June 2005 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 10/645,559 is acceptable and a RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawaguchi in view of 2001-286585.

Kawaguchi discloses a method of making/designing a wood type club (Figs. 3-4, 20) having of step of determining/providing a torque of (3.4-3.8, 4.0-4.4, 4.6-5.0, 5.6-7.2) degrees of a shaft (Fig. 14).

Kawaguchi lacks a method of making/designing a wood type head comprising a step of determining/providing the gravity point distance between the gravity point of the

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head to the center line of the shaft so that the conditions of the equations as defined in claims 12 or 15 are satisfied and to satisfy the following conditions of claims 13 or 14.

2001-286585 discloses a wood type head (Figs. 1-4) having a distance between a gravity point of a head and a center line of a shaft being 45 mm or less (English Solution) in order to have a head with a high inertial moment, light weight and short distance of center of gravity in spite of a large volume (English Abstract). In view of the reference of 2001-286585 it would have been obvious to modify the method of making/designing a wood type club of Kawachuci to have a step of determining/providing a head having a distance between a gravity point of a head and a center line of a shaft being 45 mm or less so that the conditions of the equations as defined in claims 12 or 15 are satisfied and to satisfy the following conditions of claims 13 or 14 in order to have a head with a high inertial moment, light weight and short distance of center of gravity in spite of a large volume.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7-11 are allowed. None of the prior art discloses or renders as obvious a method of making a club with a step of determining whether the torque and gravity point distance satisfies the equations as defined in claims 7 and 10 in addition to the other elements of structure claimed.


Response to Arguments

5. The argument that newly added claims 12-15 retain the allowable subject matter of claims 7-11 of determining whether the torque and gravity point distance satisfies the equations as defined in claims 7 and 10 is disagreed with. The methods of claims 7 and 10 definitively require the step of using the claimed equations to determine if the conditions are met. Claims 12-15 are much more broad methods and require only determining/providing a shaft and head so that the conditions are satisfied. Clearly in claims 12-15 one could perform the method of making/designing a club without using the equations to determine if the conditions are met. The examiner believes the minor refinements make the claims more broad.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Blau whose telephone number is (571) 272-4406. The examiner is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. If the examiner is unavailable you can contact his supervisor Greg Vidovich whose telephone number is (571) 272-4415. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858. (TC 3700 Official Fax 703-872-9306)

slb/ 8 July 2005


STEPHEN BLAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER